

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1056
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harriett L. Howard of Smyrna upon being named the 2005 "Female Volunteer of the Year" by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as estimable public servants dedicated to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such laudable citizen is Harriett Howard of Smyrna, who was recently named the 2005 "Female Volunteer of the Year" at the Alvin C. York Campus Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System by the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee, after being nominated for such honor by LT Barbara L. Turner, USN (Ret), National President of WAVES National, an Organization of Women of the Sea Services; and

WHEREAS, staunchly advocating on behalf of veterans for over sixty years, Harriett Howard, herself a retired Navy WAVE, was selected from among 94,000 active volunteers throughout the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service of 154 facilities for her tireless contributions on behalf of her fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Louise and Alfred Mann Howard, Sr., Chief Harriett L. Howard was a graduate of Central High School in Nashville, and upon graduation commenced employment with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, serving in the Accounting Department; and

WHEREAS, after taking a two-year leave of absence from her job with the Railroad to attend Vanderbilt University, Chief Howard was transferred to Louisville, Kentucky, when the

Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway merged with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Chief Harriett L. Howard retired from the Railroad and joined the firm of Hillerich and Bradsby Company, Louisville, Kentucky, as Office Manager, in which position she served for three years; and

WHEREAS, due to her determination and outstanding work ethic and the understanding and encouragement of her employers, who repeatedly granted her military leave, Chief Howard was able to establish concurrent careers in the rail industry and in the military; and

WHEREAS, an experienced veteran, Chief Harriett Howard served in the United States Naval Reserve for nearly forty years, from World War II through the Vietnam Era; she attained the pay grade of E-7, and on September 16, 1964, she was advanced to the position of Chief Personnelman; and

WHEREAS, as an indicator of her extraordinary valor and her commitment to excellence, Chief Howard has been decorated extensively, having received the Commander Navy Recruiting Command Gold Wreath with 13 stars, two Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Medal with one star, the Naval Reserve Medal for twenty years of service, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with an Hour Glass, and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal with three stars; in 1979, she was named Recruiting Support Person of the Year by the Commander Navy Recruiting Command in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, upon her retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserves, Chief Harriett L. Howard focused her attention on achieving for women veterans the rights and privileges afforded to their male counterparts and granted to all veterans under the law; and

WHEREAS, organizing a WAVES National Unit in Tennessee in 1990, Chief Harriett Howard founded the first sanctioned organization specifically for women veterans; since then, she has led the organization as its State Director and has aided in the founding of several such organizations across the State; she currently serves as Unit President of Volunteer Unit #94; and

WHEREAS, a volunteer at the Alvin C. York Campus Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System since February 1988, "Ms. Harriett" has logged nearly 8,000 hours of voluntary service to our veterans, involving herself in nearly every aspect of the facility's operations and support programs; and

WHEREAS, although Harriett Howard is reluctant to take credit for all of her hard work, she has played an integral role in such efforts as the launching of female health care in the 1980s, obtaining equipment for the Ophthalmology Clinic, and bringing mammography to the York Campus, as well as the subsequent opening of the Women's Clinic in 1995; and

WHEREAS, giving not only her time but her passion for volunteer efforts, Ms. Howard has planned and participated in numerous volunteer activities for long-term care and nursing home patients at the York Campus and has thus become a beloved figure to countless present and former York Campus VA patients; and

WHEREAS, she has organized a multitude of events for patients at York Campus, including patient carnivals, Tennessee Walking Horse shows, and Memorial Day activities, in addition to serving as an annual co-sponsor of the Middle Tennessee State University Homecoming football game, which honors hundreds of veterans each year; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 82, Ms. Harriett continues to volunteer every week at the Dental Clinic and the Women's Clinic, and she is currently working to raise VA and community awareness about the need to reopen the main aquatic therapeutic swimming pool at the Alvin C. York Campus that serves disabled veterans within a radius of 250 miles, but was closed in February of 2005, because of a lack of funds for necessary infrastructure repairs; and

WHEREAS, deeply respected by her co-workers and fellow veterans, Ms. Harriett Howard is considered by many to be the one person most responsible for raising one million five hundred thousand dollars in donations to build Tennessee's World War II Memorial on the Tennessee Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a recipient of the President's Call to Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, Harriett Howard is a WAVES National VAVS Representative on the York Campus VAVS Committee, and has served on the Management Assistance Council for Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 9-for the seven VA Hospitals

in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee), and the Community Access Sub-Council that assessed the need for Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the VISN 9; and

WHEREAS, having volunteered to join the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy (WAVES) in June 1944 and subsequently retiring from the U.S. Naval Reserve after over thirty-nine years of courageous service, Ms. Harriett Howard served as Co-Grand Marshal of the 1999 Veterans Day Parade in downtown Nashville, an honor highly appropriate for a veteran who has spent a lifetime in dedicated service to her fellow veterans of the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary career as a servicewoman and her subsequent involvement in veterans' affairs, Chief Howard has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to society on behalf of veterans, Chief Harriett L. Howard has been honored with numerous awards; she received a nomination for the Rutherford County Female Trailblazer Award, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Veterans Home Foundation, Inc., and has received the Leon Gilbert Memorial Humanitarian Award from The American Legion Post 5, the Dr. Joe Nunley Memorial Award to World War II Veterans for "Service to Others" from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rutherford County Community Service Committee; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Chief Harriet Howard is most grateful for the love and companionship she shared with her brother, the late Captain Alfred Mann Howard, Jr., USN (Ret.), and shares with her sister, Mary H. Hibbett and her family; and

WHEREAS, Harriett Howard epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to service that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Harriett Howard for her meritorious service to her country and to the military veterans of this great Nation at the Alvin C. York

Campus Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and VA medical facilities across America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we take great pride in joining with the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee in paying tribute to Harriett Howard on the occasion of her being named their 2005 "Female Volunteer of the Year" for her years of devotion and tireless efforts on behalf of her fellow veterans and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.